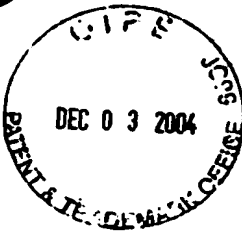


Docket No. NE-1017-US/KM
(MOR.019)



RECEIVED

DEC 09 2004

Technology Center 2600

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Hiroyuki SAITO

Serial No.: 09/616,672

Group Art Unit: 2731

Filing Date: July 14, 2000

Examiner: Unknown

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DESIGNING COMMUNICATION PATHS OF
TREE STRUCTURE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

STATUS INQUIRY

Sir:

Please advise the undersigned of the status of the above application as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M. McGinn".

Sean M. McGinn

Registration No. 34,386

Date: 11/12/04

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, Virginia 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254